AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing below of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A torsional vibration damper comprising:

a plurality of components rotatable relative to each other about a common axis;

at least two deformable energy storing elements in the form of coil springs arranged to yieldably oppose rotation of said components relative to each other; and

means for operatively coupling corresponding end regions of said coil springs to each other for controlled entrainment of at least one of said coil springs in response to deformation of another of said coil springs, wherein said means for coupling include carrier elements having radially-outwardly-extending entraining members, wherein the entraining members are disposed between neighboring convolutions of said at least two coil springs, and wherein upon ~~relaxation~~ deformation of a first coil spring a carrier element operates to simultaneously ~~unload~~ entrain a second coil spring, whereby ~~both~~ the at least two coil springs ~~are equally unloaded~~ uniformly dissipate energy.

Claim 2 (original): The damper of claim 1, wherein said components form part of a split flywheel.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The damper of claim 1, wherein said at least ~~one~~ two energy storing ~~element is an~~ elements are arcuate coil ~~spring~~ springs.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The damper of claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ the first energy storing element is arranged to store and dissipate energy and said first energy storing element is arranged to be entrained in response to dissipation of energy by ~~a~~ the second energy storing element.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The damper of claim 1, wherein said ~~coupling means includes~~ carrier elements each include at least one first entraining member that is in motion-transmitting engagement with an end region of one of said energy storing elements, and at least one second entraining member that is in motion-transmitting engagement with an end region of another of said energy storing elements.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The damper of claim 6, wherein said ~~coupling means includes at least one~~ carrier elements are substantially circular, disc-shaped, annular ~~carrier element that carries~~ components that carry at least one first and at least one second entraining member.

Claim 8 (original): The damper of claim 7, including a support for said carrier elements, wherein each of said carrier elements is turnable relative to and in frictional contact with said support.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The damper of claim 8, wherein said support includes a flange abutting an end of at least one of said energy storing elements.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The damper of claim 8, wherein at least one of said carrier elements is centered relative to a longitudinal axis of said support.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The damper of claim 10, wherein each of said carrier elements includes a radially inner and a radially outer portion, one of said radially inner and outer portions being centered relative to said support.

Claim 12 (original): The damper of claim 6, wherein at least one of said energy storing elements includes a compression coil spring having a plurality of convolutions including two neighboring convolutions, wherein at least one of said first and second entraining members is disposed between said neighboring convolutions of said coil spring.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The damper of claim 6, wherein at least one of said energy storing elements includes a compression coil spring having a plurality of convolutions including at least one larger-diameter convolution and at least two smaller-diameter convolutions flanking said at least one larger-diameter convolution, at least one of said first and second entraining members including first and second coupling elements each having two spaced-apart entraining portions for the at least one larger-diameter convolution of said compression coil spring, said at least one larger diameter

convolution being disposed between and being engaged by said entraining portions of the respective coupling element.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The damper of claim 6, wherein at least one of said energy storing elements includes a compression coil spring having a plurality of convolutions including a first convolution having a first diameter and two additional convolutions having second diameters greater than said first diameter, said first convolution being disposed between said second convolutions, and one of said entraining members including a portion disposed radially inwardly at said first convolution and flanked by said additional convolutions.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The damper of claim 6, further including a substantially circular carrier element for each of said first and second entraining members, at least one of said carrier elements formed at least in part of a metallic sheet material, and wherein at least one of said entraining members is formed of a metallic sheet material.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The damper of claim 15, wherein said at least one entraining member includes a substantially arcuate section affixed to said at least one carrier element and a projection extending substantially radially outwardly from said substantially arcuate section.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The damper of claim 1, wherein the number of said energy storing elements exceeds two.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The damper of claim 1, wherein each of said energy storing elements extends along an arc of approximately n times 90°, n being a whole number including one.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The damper of claim 1, wherein each of said energy storing elements extends along an arc of about 180° and said energy storing elements are disposed at least substantially diametrically opposite each other.

Claim 20 (original): The damper of claim 1, wherein each of said components is a ring-shaped mass.

Claim 21 (currently amended): ~~The damper of claim 1~~ A torsional vibration damper comprising:

a plurality of components rotatable relative to each other about a common axis;

at least two deformable energy storing elements in the form of coil springs arranged to yieldably oppose rotation of said components relative to each other; and

means for operatively coupling corresponding end regions of said coil springs to each other for controlled entrainment of at least one of said coil springs in response to deformation of another of said coil springs, wherein said means for coupling include carrier elements, wherein upon deformation of a first coil spring a carrier element operates to simultaneously entrain a second coil spring, whereby the at least two coil springs uniformly dissipate energy, wherein the at least two coil springs are disposed in

spaced, end-to-end relationship in an annular array about ~~the~~ a common axis, and wherein corresponding end regions of ~~a pair of~~ the at least two coil springs are interconnected by radially-outwardly extending entraining members of a carrier element and that extend between a pair of adjacent end region coil convolutions of each spring to cause ~~both~~ the at least two coil springs to compress simultaneously and to decompress simultaneously.